

## ANTI-UNION ACTIVITY ALERT

### Association of American Educators



The Center for Honesty in Education has received sparse reports of NJEA members considering the American Association of Educators as a viable alternative to NJEA membership. Once presented with the facts about this anti-union organization, the overwhelming majority of members stick with the union. The truth is that AAE is funded by the very same organizations that have been harassing you with deceptive mailers trying to trick you to leave your union.

#### What is the Association of American Educators?

AAE calls itself a “union alternative” and it claims to provide professional insurance and legal services to educators at bargain prices. In reality it is a tool of anti-union organizations. AAE is part of the State Policy Network, along with the Mackinac Center, Freedom Foundation, Commonwealth Foundation and other organizations whose primary function is to undermine public sector labor unions. It is funded in part by the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation and the Walton Family Foundation.

#### Is AAE really a viable alternative to union membership?

Certainly not. While AAE may claim to offer comparable services to NJEA, the reality most often falls short. AAE does not provide direct access to a network of experienced attorneys as NJEA does. Instead, you must seek out your own counsel and hope to be reimbursed up to a policy limit - but ONLY if you win your case. AAE claims their insurance has higher liability limits than what NJEA members receive, but numerous exclusions and exemptions often result in no coverage at all when an individual tries to make a claim.

Most importantly, AAE does not bargain contracts, advocate for the profession, work to improve the quality of education, or provide any of the many benefits that NJEA membership offers. There is simply no replacement for the complete circle of coverage and support that NJEA membership provides.

#### But isn't AAE a non-political version of NJEA?

AAE does the political bidding of their donors, advocating for non-public schools, promoting privatization, collaborating with the NRA, and pushing for reduced bargaining power for public sector labor unions. AAE is about as political as it gets.

#### What should I do?

Organizations that seek to undermine union membership usually have financial motives, and AAE is no exception. Their donors have a vested interest in reducing the strength of working people and the ability of government agencies to regulate the industries in which they amass billions of dollars.

Report suspicious activity related to your membership using the Center for Honesty reporting tool at [www.centeforhonesty.org](http://www.centeforhonesty.org). Educate yourself and your colleagues. And remember, your freedom to stand up for yourself and public education is on the line.